

Scientists you should be talking to

Staudt, Richard <restaudt@seattleschools.org>

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To: Neal Morton <nmorton@seattletimes.com>;

Cc: Robinson, Tim <tirobinson@seattleschools.org>;

Neal,

I have already encouraged you to talk to scientists and public health professionals knowledgeable in the area you are proposing to write about. In addition to Simoni Triantafyllidou and Sheela Sathyanarayana, you should check in with Derrick Dennis, the Water Quality Section Manager at the WA State Department of Health. He probably knows more about school drinking water quality than anyone in our state. His program has been offering free drinking water quality testing to school districts across our state and has had trouble getting as many signed up for the service as the grant provided funding for. He is very familiar with the Seattle Public Schools' program and does not believe any other district in the state has a protocol for regular periodic testing such as we do. He would absolutely advocate against our taking out of service handwashing sinks that don't meet our drinking water standards, since regular handwashing is a strong contributor to public health, especially amongst younger persons. If you were interested in getting the perspective of an actual expert in the field, it would be worth your time to reach out to him. derrick.dennis@doh.wa.gov or (360) 236-3122.

In addition to Sheela at the UW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit, who I understand is less readily accessible these days, you might also reach out to Catherine Karr who is the director of that program. ckarr@uw.edu or (206) 616-4355.

I am encouraged by your interest in getting the cost of our program precisely accurate, but discouraged by your sending an email to the Broadview Thomson PTSA, inaccurately stating that they had drinking water sources at their school that had failed testing. I wish I could feel more confident that your goal is complete accuracy throughout your article.

Were you still intending to send us a copy of the article before you publish it, as you said you would last Friday?

Richard Staudt

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